

The Infilling of the Holy Spirit: GOD's Gift to the Church

by Kenneth E. Hagin

Shortly before His crucifixion, Jesus made this promise, *"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you"* (John 14:16,17).

Peter, preaching on the day of Pentecost, told how the promise had been fulfilled, *"This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear"* (Acts 2:32,33).

More Than an Experience

Notice that Jesus said, *"I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that HE may abide with you for ever . . ."* When we receive the Holy Spirit, we do not receive "it". Jesus said *"HE may abide with you for ever . . ."* We receive "Him".

Some say, "I received the baptism." They did not; they received the Holy Spirit. Some say, "I am filled with the baptism." They are not. They are not even filled with the baptism in the Holy Spirit. They are filled with the Holy Spirit.

Receiving the Holy Spirit is more than an experience. A divine personality—the third person of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit—comes to make His home in you. We must not be so concerned with an outward experience that we miss the reality of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

We should not have to look back to some experience we had at an altar years ago. He should become more real to us every single day. I received the infilling of the Holy Spirit in 1937. I talked with tongues for an hour and a half. I sang three songs in tongues. But that was the least part of this more than 40 years—that was just the beginning.

To hear some people talk, the moment they received was the greatest thing that happened in their life. In one sense of the word, that may be true, because it was the beginning. But some haven't experienced anything since. If He is living in you, you can have experiences every day. You don't have just one experience and that is the end of it. A divine personality has come to live within you!

God's Gift to His Children

The infilling of the Holy Spirit is not for sinners; it is for believers. Referring to the infilling of the Holy Spirit, Jesus said, *"Even the Spirit of truth; WHOM THE WORLD CANNOT RECEIVE"* (John 14:17).

The world can receive Eternal Life. *"For God so loved THE WORLD, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"* (John 3:16). The world can receive Christ as Savior. The world can be born again. But you have to be born again before you can receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

There are some extreme teachings in the church world which are unscriptural. I began my ministry as a denominational preacher; I know

what they teach. I have been among Full Gospel people for a number of years; I know what they teach. I have found extreme teaching in both places.

The denomination I belonged to taught that if you are born again you have the Holy Spirit—and that you have all the Holy Spirit there is. They are partly right, but they are mostly wrong in that assertion.

If you are born again, you do have the Holy Spirit. There is a work of the Holy Spirit in the new birth. It is the Holy Spirit who imparts Eternal Life to the spirit of the sinner. It is the Holy Spirit who recreates a man's spirit and makes him a new creature in Christ Jesus. It is the Holy Spirit who bears witness with the spirit of the born-again one that he is the child of God. But that is not the infilling of the Holy Spirit—even though the Holy Spirit is present in your life.

Jesus pictured it for us very beautifully in the Gospel of John.

To the woman at the well in Samaria, Jesus said, *"Whosoever drinketh of this water (referring to the water in the well) shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him A WELL OF WATER springing up into EVER-LASTING LIFE"* (John 4:13,14).

Then we read in John 7:37-39, *"In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow RIVERS OF LIVING WATER. (But this spake he of the*

spirit which he should give . . ."

Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

The water in both of these Scriptures is a type of the Holy Spirit. But notice that Jesus is speaking of two different experiences. First, a "well of water springing up into everlasting life." This is the new birth. Secondly, "rivers of living water." This is the experience of the Holy Spirit in the life of the born-again child of God.

The water in the well is for one purpose. The water in the rivers (not just one river—but rivers) is for another. The water in the well is for your own benefit. It blesses you. But the rivers flowing out of you bless somebody else. The purpose of being filled with the Holy Spirit is that you might be a blessing to others.

I was in a denomination when I was healed by the power of God after being given up by medical science to die and lying 16 months bedfast. Then I began to go around Full Gospel people because they preached divine healing and it stimulated my faith. But they also preached the infilling of the Holy Spirit and speaking with tongues. Some denominational friends deeply interested in me warned, "Those people are good people and all right in many ways. But be careful about that tongues business; it's of the devil."

When I was subsequently filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke with tongues, I knew that it was not from

the devil. I didn't receive some spirit that I hadn't had before, and didn't know anything about. The same Holy Spirit I became acquainted with in the new birth, the same Spirit who bore witness with my spirit that I was a child of God, was the Spirit who gave me utterance in tongues.

I told my denominational friends, "You said that speaking with tongues is of the devil. Well, if it is, then the new birth is of the devil. For the same Spirit that led me to Christ, the same Holy Spirit that bore witness with my spirit that I am a child of God, gave me utterance in tongues."

When you are born again, you do not have all the Holy Spirit there is. Just because you have had one drink of water is no sign you're full of water. There is the experience subsequent to the new birth of being filled with the Spirit—and as a result, out of the belly (the spirit) rivers of living waters can flow.

Come, and drink, and get full. How can you tell when you get full?

ACTS 2:4

4. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

If you are a believer, it is just as simple as Jesus said. Come, and drink, and keep drinking, until you get full. When you get full, you will start speaking with other tongues. That is the initial sign, or evidence, that you are filled.

On the other hand, an extreme teaching I have heard in some Full

Gospel circles says that no one is really saved unless he has spoken in tongues. That is error also.

Jesus said that "the world cannot receive" this gift (John 14:17). God does have a gift for the world—salvation. But the Heavenly Father has a further gift for His children—the gift of the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

LUKE 11:13

13. If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

We hear a lot about the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, and that God is the father of us all and we are all brothers. That is not true. Jesus said to the Pharisees, the strictest sect of the Jewish religion, "Ye are of your father the devil . . ." (John 8:44). God is only the Father of those who have been born again. And for those who have been born again the Father has the gift of the infilling of the Holy Ghost.

Jesus said, ". . . no man putteth new wine into old bottles: else the new wine doth burst the bottles . . . but new wine must be put into new bottles" (Mark 2:22). The skin bottles they used back then could be used only once. If they were left lying over a year, they would crack. If new wine were put in them, they would burst. Wine is a type of the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures. God could not give the Holy Spirit in the fullness unless one had been made a new creature, because, as Jesus said, if you put new wine in old wine bottles, they would burst. If He put the Holy Spirit into people who had not been born again, they would burst. You have to become a new creature first. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature . . ." (2 Cor. 5:17). When you have been made a new creature, you are ready to be filled with the new wine.

Subsequent to Salvation

As a denominational pastor years ago, these Scriptures in Acts 8 helped me see the truth of God's Word on this subject.

ACTS 8:5,6,8,12

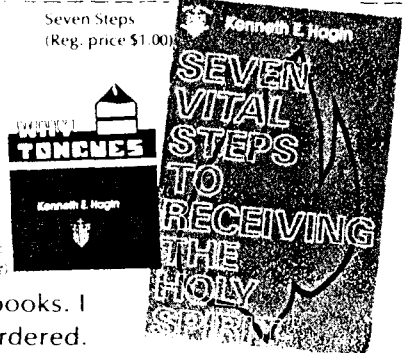
5. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.

Continued on page 9

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6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did . . .

8 And there was great joy in that city . . .

12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Were these people saved?

According to Jesus they were. He said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:15,16).

According to the Epistle of Peter they were. "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever" (1 Peter 1:23). They had received the Word of God according to Acts 8:14—so according to Peter they were born again.

ACTS 8:14-17

14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria HAD RECEIVED THE WORD OF GOD, they sent unto them Peter and John:

15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

17 Then laid they their hands on them, and THEY RECEIVED THE HOLY GHOST.

These Scriptures helped me see that if you were saved, you did have the work of the Holy Spirit in your life, but you had not actually received the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Here we see that the early Christians believed that receiving the Holy Spirit is an experience subsequent to salvation. They sent Peter and John to pray for these new believers "that they might receive the Holy Ghost." They did not pray for them to get saved. They prayed for them to receive the Holy Ghost.

Let's notice something else here. Peter and John did not pray that God would "give" them the Holy Ghost. Very often we hear people pray, "Lord, save souls at this service tonight. Heal the sick at this service. Fill believers with the Holy Spirit."

Continued on page 11

SEMINAR GLEANINGS

John Osteen, pastor of Lakewood Church in Houston, Texas, conducted our first guest speaker seminar of the RHEMA school year in late October. Students and others who attended were inspired and challenged by his messages on *The Restoration of the Church*. These quotes were picked to share the power-packed wit and wisdom of John Osteen with you.



"Jesus started a Church which is His Body, and a picture of it is in the Book of Acts . . . Acts is not a denominational or Pentecostal handbook. We have a right to what it says. This is the day that God is restoring what the locust, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar (Joel 2:25) have devoured. You are fortunate to live in this era."

"Tongues isn't in your church doctrine? Is the Bible? The baptism in the Holy Spirit is as much a part of the Bible as the new birth is. *Did you know that the whole New Testament was written by tongue-talkers?*"

"My denomination used to sing, 'O for a thousand tongues to sing . . . I got one more tongue, and it nearly scared them to death.'"

"The miracle of it! That God has given us the ability to speak in a language we do not understand to worship, adore, and magnify our Father!"

"In these last days, God is restoring the supernatural to the church. There is a divine restlessness. People want reality."

"There is in every person an innate desire to know about the miraculous. God put that in there. Because we have failed to teach this, this hunger has led people into the occult, witchcraft, and Satan worship. Now, however, there is rising up an army of men and women filled with the Holy Spirit. They are coming together in one band. One mark of this band of people is that they have been ushered into the supernatural. They are seeing miracles."

"There never was a Day of Miracles; there is a God of miracles. If the Day of Miracles is over, how can we have the greatest miracle of all: the New Birth?"

"The answer for the church is the miraculous. Wherever you find the miraculous, it's hard to find a seat. There is a time to stop on point 2 of your sermon and demonstrate the miracle power of God. Are there any miracles in your church? Does anybody come walking, leaping, and praising God in your sanctuary?"

"The attitude we take toward miracles and supernatural happenings today is the same attitude we would have taken in Jesus' day."

"Acts is how the church ought to look in every generation: 28 chapters of God's people in a heathen world, functioning in the Body of Christ."

"Every church of every generation should look just like the Book of Acts. Hell is too hot and our responsibility is too great to mince words in this hour."

However, I do not find in the Book of Acts that they ever prayed that way. We should pray according to the Word of God. We should pray that people would receive that which is offered to them.

I do not pray that God would save people. He has already done something about saving them. He sent His Son to die for us. He has already purchased salvation for every man. But it will not do a person any good

unless he accepts it. That is why God told us to tell the Good News. Scripturally, we should pray that they will receive that which is offered to them.

I do not pray that God would heal people. I pray that they will receive the healing that God offers.

I do not pray that God will fill people with the Holy Spirit. I pray, like Peter and John did, that they might receive the gift that God offers.



RADIO NEWS

Faith Seminar of the Air can now be heard in the Far East via Far East Broadcasting Company in Manila short wave radio . . . 19 Meter Band, Freq. 15.390, 50,000 watts, beamed west from Philippines toward India and into Communist China. This simulcasts with 13 Meter Band, Freq. 21.525, clear channel 2,000 watts beamed southeast toward Australia and New Zealand.

Dallas, Texas listeners will hear *Faith Seminar of the Air* at a new time (9:30 a.m.) over KVTX-FM, 91.7.

GOOD REPORTS

Dear Brother Hagin:

At one time I was a denominational preacher . . . This denomination taught that God could heal but would do so only when He thought it was to His best interest to do so.

My wife, Mary, was a diabetic for 30 years. She suffered great physical and mental distresses because of the shock to her system this disease inflicted in her body. I so longed to see God heal her. Much prayer went up to God that "If it be your will, Lord, please heal Mary." Then God's word began to speak to me.

Jesus never turned anyone away who came to Him for healing. He said we would do greater things than He did. Other scriptures caused me to become aware that something wasn't right with the denominational position. This was confirmed one day as I was in my study reading Matthew 8. When I came to the 17th verse and read ". . . Himself took our infirmities and bare our sicknesses" the Lord spoke to me rather distinctly and said "Look at that again." I did. Then He said "You believe I took your sins on the cross 1900 years ago don't you? then how do you reconcile this?" Suddenly I saw it!

Healing was accomplished already—just as salvation was accomplished! I had to know more.

I found some books on the subject of healing. Many I discarded because of their traditional stand, but I found several that seemed in tune with what the Lord had revealed to me. One was *Healing Belongs to Us* by Kenneth Hagin.

To make a long story short, I left the denomination because they didn't like the fact we had five major healings in our church. We formed an independent work.

Mary, however, still had the symptoms of diabetes and sustained herself on insulin injections daily. Slowly, her dependency on insulin began to wane and at one point it looked as though victory was assured. Even her doctor thought she might be able to do without insulin. Then something happened.

Mary's tests went out of control. It seemed we couldn't give her enough insulin to stop it. Then a strange thing happened. It came to me that God wanted to take Mary home. At first I rejected it, but as Mary continued to fail I began to believe it . . . My faith suffered. Instead of standing on God's word I looked at circumstances. I didn't know at the time that Satan had fed Mary the same lie!

After last Thursday's midweek services I decided to stay all night in prayer. I prayed most of the night in the Spirit. The next morning a member of my congregation, who did not give in to the idea that Mary was to go home, called me and insisted I call Kenneth Hagin. I told her he would be too busy to talk to me, but she insisted and made me promise I would try.

So I called the Kenneth Hagin Evangelistic Association and talked

to a counselor. I am sorry I didn't remember her name. She began to tell me things of scripture that I already knew but yet they seemed so fresh to me. Then she prayed in the Spirit and suddenly it came to me—THIS IS A LIE OF THE DEVIL!

I went home and found my wife in bed quite ill. Her face was pale, her tests were the worst yet, and she was very weak. I said to her "Get up from there and get dressed! This whole thing is a lie from Satan and we are not going to buy it! Get up right now and get dressed!"

She did.

Almost immediately her tests cleared and she regained strength! She began doing her housework that for three weeks she could not do! PRAISE GOD FOREVER!!!

IDAHO

* * *

Brother Hagin, Jr.:

I was in your seminar in Greenville, South Carolina in June of this year. You called out for people who couldn't have children. I was one of the first to come forward for prayer.

In July, I conceived after 5 years of marriage, and our baby is expected on April 2, 1979.

TENNESSEE

* * *

Dear Mr. Hagin:

I have just recently finished your book entitled "New Thresholds of Faith" and all I can say is it is anointed of God. . .

The Lord used your teaching to save me from a deep rut I was falling into. My vocabulary was cluttered with *can't's*, *couldn't's* and other words which were negative in their meanings. I had come to accept failure as part of God's will and was even getting ready to preach it on occasions. But God has revealed through your teaching a more complete understanding of faith and its attributes.

I think that being a failure is really an easy way out for many Christians as it requires very little effort and it allows sympathy and pity to come our way. Praise Jesus for your book as it has really been an inspiration to me. Faith is the best way and the only way to succeed in God.

MICHIGAN